

THE GOLDEN DUCK



Once upon a time in Warsaw lived a young apprentice to shoemaker named Lutek and he often dreamed about being rich.

One day he heard that in the dungeons under Tamka palace lived Golden Duck. It wasn't a real duck - it was an enchanted princess. If someone could break her spell, she would make him very rich.

Lutek decided to go and find the Golden Duck and went down to the dungeons and he saw an underground lake and Golden Duck on it with piles of gold around. The duck spoke in a human voice saying that she could make him rich but he had to spend a bag of gold on himself in one day.

Lutek spent it on food, new shoes and clothes, jewels, a horse and so many things! But he didn't feel happy at all because he saw many poor people around and couldn't help them.

Lutek saw an old beggar and felt so sorry for him, that he gave him the rest of the gold.

Suddenly a golden princess appeared and said very angry that Lutek didn't fulfil the terms to be rich because he shared the gold and then she disappeared.

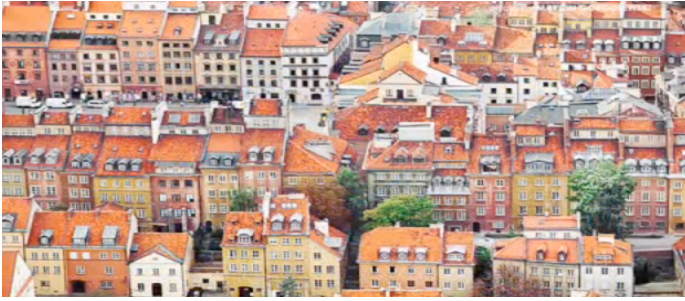
But Lutek didn't regret that he gave the money to the beggar and became a great craftsman and was very happy.

People say that Golden Duck has never found a person who could fulfil her terms and break her spell.

The End



PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND “The Golden Duck”



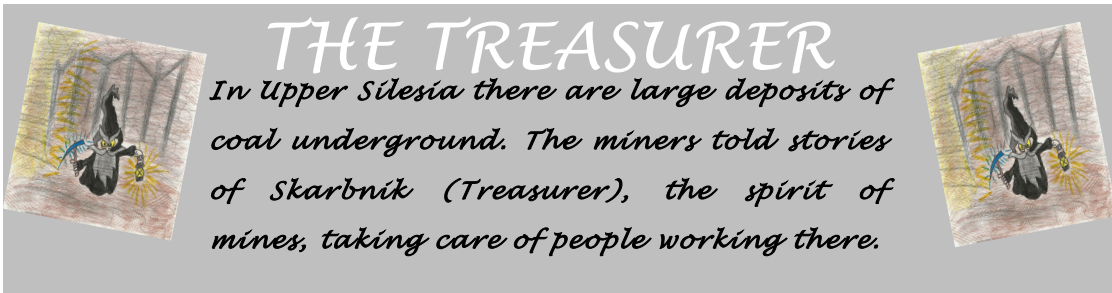
The legend takes place in the old town of Warsaw.



The magical golden duck is in the dungeons under Tamka palace.



TAMKA and Warsaw in Canaletto's painting.



Once upon a time a boy named Franek lived with his family near a coal mine where his father worked. They were poor, but happy.

One day his father was killed in an accident in the mine. Franek had to find a job, so he came to the coalmine and found the foreman.

'You are too young to be a miner!' said the foreman. But he thought for a while and said: 'All right. If you can dig as much coal as other miners in a week, you can stay.'

When Franek got into the lift and rode down and down and down underground, he was terribly scared. The work was very hard and he wasn't as strong as adult miners.

After three days he was sure that was going to lose the job and started crying.

Suddenly Franek saw an old man in miner clothes, coming closer. He was carrying a pickaxe in one hand and a lantern in the other.

'Why are you crying?' the old man asked. Franek told him about his family and problems.

'I can help you dig the coal until the end of this week', said the miner, 'but you will have to share with me the money you get.'

They started working together and nobody apart from Franek noticed the old man. By the end of the week they dug even more coal than other miners.

'I can see that you are fit to be one of us', the foreman said very impressed and giving some money to Franek. 'You can stay.'

When Franek went down to the mine again, the old man was waiting for him in the corridor.

'Have you got the money for me?' he asked.

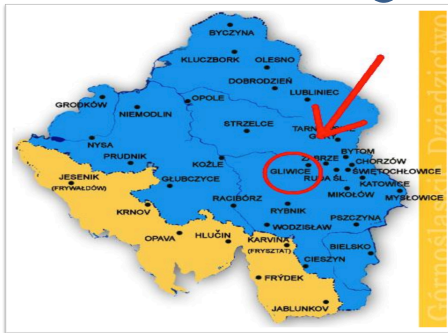
'Please take it all. Thanks to you my family will not starve.' said Franek.

PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND

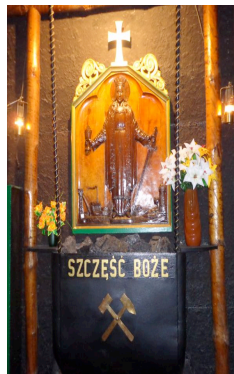
"The Treasurer"



The legend takes place in Upper Silesia in the South of Poland, a region known because of its cultural tolerance.



Upper Silesia is the most industrialized area (19 cities) of Poland and there are large underground deposits of coal.



In Silesia You can see mine shafts everywhere and in every coal mine there is a chapel of St. Barbara, the patron saint of all miners.



A long, long time ago in the castle on Wawel hill lived king Krak, a very good and wise King. He had a problem: at the bottom of the Wawel hill there was a cave where a dragon lived.

The dragon was an enormous, terrible beast with leathery wings and sharp teeth. And it breathed fire! King's soldiers tried to kill the dragon, but its skin was so tough that their swords and arrows just bounced back from it.

The dragon ate cows and sheep, and sometimes even people. It was always hungry.

The king finally he made a proclamation: the man who killed the dragon would marry his daughter, the princess.

A young shoemaker, Dratewka, suddenly came up with an idea how to kill the dragon!

At the market he bought a sheepskin and some brimstone. Then he went to his workshop, took the sheepskin and put inside all the brimstone. Then he sewed it close, so it looked like a sheep.

At night he went near the dragon's cave, left the false sheep at the entrance and hid behind a tree.

In the morning the dragon woke up. It was hungry, of course, because it was always hungry. So when it went out of the cave and saw the false sheep, it ate the sheep in one bite.

A moment later it felt that something was terribly wrong. Remember? The dragon breathed fire, and the brimstone started burning in its belly. The dragon felt terribly thirsty!

It crawled to the bank of the Vistula river and drank some water. But the brimstone was still burning in its belly, and it was still thirsty. So it drank, and drank, and drank. And its belly got bigger and bigger, and suddenly BOOM!!! The dragon's belly exploded and the dragon was dead.

The people of Cracow were finally happy and the king was very grateful. Dratewka made himself beautiful new boots of the dragon's skin and married the princess. And they all lived happily ever after.

The End

PLACES CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND

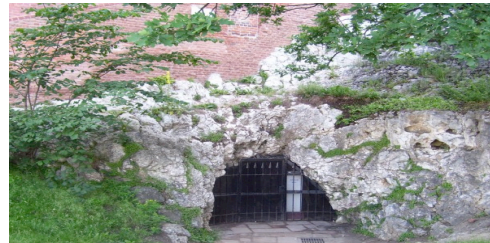
“The Dragon of Wawel”



The legend takes place in Cracow, near the Vistula river where the Wawel Hill and the Royal Castle are placed.



Under the Wawel there is the cave of the dragon from the legend. It is called “Dragon’s Den”.



This is the monument of the dragon. It stands at the bottom of the Wawel hill.

The dragon breathes real fire!!